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Volume XXI, taken as a whole, is devoted to problems of normal psychic structure, and of normal perceptual development of infants and very young children. It reflects well the great contemporary appreciation of the need for direct observation of infant and child behavior, for more concrete criteria of health and illness in more subdivided phases of childhood, and for a freer integration of findings from psychology and physiology with the clinical findings derived from the metapsychological approach.

The present volume of the Annual maintains the integrity of past volumes and continues the tradition of sound scholarship that has consistently characterized **THE PSYCHOANALYTIC STUDY OF THE CHILD**.

"THE PSYCHOANALYTIC STUDY OF THE CHILD has achieved an eminent and almost venerable position in the field of psychoanalytic literature."

—The Psychoanalytic Quarterly

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THE PSYCHOANALYTIC STUDY OF THE CHILD, Volume XXI, is the Main Selection of the Behavioral Science Book Service.

The Main Selection.



a review by

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With this twenty-first volume, and its twenty-one papers, **THE PSYCHOANALYTIC STUDY OF THE CHILD** attains its "adulthood" with evidence of continued readiness to bring forth new hypotheses and to test wider applications of psychoanalysis to problems of normal and abnormal development. The Annual has come to be what Ernst Kris, one its three founders, wished: *an almanac of contributions that would attempt to articulate links between developmental psychology and psychoanalytic metapsychology of childhood. The original plan to chronicle experimental, clinical, and theoretical findings, is once more fulfilled.*

Volume XXI includes papers in all of these areas. While the clinical data in almost all of them are abundant, many conceptual problems are in the forefront. Aptly enough for an Annual that ends its childhood, the volume contains a very brief historical survey of child analysis as delivered by Anna Freud at the first meeting of the recently organized American Association of Child Psychoanalysis. From it one gets a succinct account of the ways that child analysis has developed from an adjunct of adult analysis to a base for psychoanalytic research through direct observation of children in normal and pathological conditions, and for special training in techniques and in community services.

The majority of papers in **THE PSYCHOANALYTIC STUDY OF THE CHILD**, Volume XXI, may be grouped according to their relevance to cognition and thinking, affect and its disturbances, and diagnosis. Studied in relation to one another, each group provides a good picture of contemporary ideas on these broad topics.

On cognition and thinking: Fraiberg, Gibson and Siegel present observations to show that the blind infant does not respond to sound cues of even a familiar object until the end of the first year, not until the object, in Piaget's sense, is recognized as a permanent one, with unchanging properties of its own. Kleeman's paper, containing observations of a little boy's discovery, during his second year, of his genital parts and of their sensations, is intriguing, for it throws clear light on the microscopic alterations of perception and feeling involved in such discoveries. The paper is a sequel to Kleeman's account of the same child's genital observations in his first year, as published in Volume XX of the Annual.

Helen Schur is concerned with the storage and recall of early memories, and she discusses a short clinical datum to substantiate the hypothesis

that a memory trace may be organized with later-acquired information and then may be expressed on a higher level of abstraction. This theme, the re-creation or recasting of perceptual phenomena in new or advanced forms, emerges again in another context, in a paper by Kurt Eissler.

A posthumous paper of Lili Peller, on Freud's contribution to language theory, reflects better than many of her previous papers, the fine quality of her observations and thoughts about the very young child. She had been interested in problems of linguistics for a number of years, and she nicely sets forth the function of language in the move from primary to secondary processes, and in the endowment of mental acts with consciousness. The importance of these functions is that they permit the control of reality via thought.

On affect and its disturbances: The papers dealing with aspects of affective development and its vicissitudes, from infancy through adolescence, are especially noteworthy. Spiegel advances propositions regarding the relations between feeling pain of mental origin and the development of self and object cathexes. Bychowski, describing patterns of anger in adults, suggests that anger may be the earliest emotion in infancy. Anger, he points out, occurs only after a degree of object perception has set in: the clinical significance is that where self-object differentiation is poor, the aggressive impulses are likely to be discharged in distorted ways, and to subserve later psychopathology, especially psychosis.

Greenacre links the over-idealization in the relationship between analyst and analysand with the exciting and awe-inspiring experiences that toddlers often have with their fathers. Her paper is a thoughtful addition to her many original considerations of preoedipal emotion and behavior.

Laufer writes of object loss and mourning during adolescence. On the basis of material from the analysis of a boy whose mother died during his treatment, Laufer describes the ways in which such a loss may stifle the process of resolving ambivalence of the oedipal period, may reinforce idealization of the oedipal objects, and may interfere with the normal surrender of those object representations.

In a directly related paper by Wolfenstein, the proposition is offered that the capacity to mourn is contingent upon the normal process of relinquishing the idealized oedipal objects; this may explain why children rarely mourn or grieve in the manner of adults, and why those who have passed through adolescence are more able to do so. Wolfenstein notes that children often feel ashamed of having lost a parent by death. Might one then say that the child cannot mourn so long as he perceives the death of a loved one as an oedipal desertion?



The Main Selection:

**The Psychoanalytic Study
of the Child
Volume XXI**

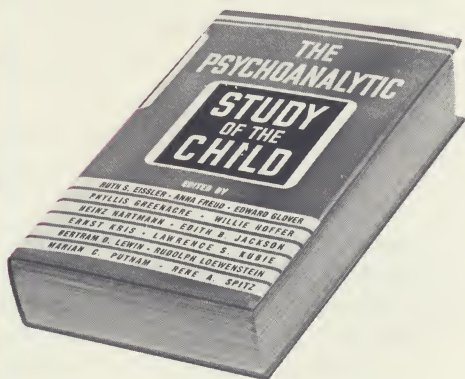
Edited by

*Ruth S. Eissler, Anna Freud,
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Kurt Eissler's contribution to this volume is a brilliant discussion of the function of dreams in a creative process as well as in precipitating or signaling trauma. The dream may bind anxiety, may resolve it, and may even dissolve tensions and obviate memories. With his customary grace and perspicuity, Eissler integrates data about REM states in infancy, neurotic conflict, and psychotic delusion, to support his propositions.

On **diagnosis**: Asch examines clinical relations between three kinds of depression. The first kind, manifest in hypochondriasis, is of special interest to those who are occupied with genetic problems, as Asch traces its source to disturbances of the infant's archaic body image. Meers has a carefully worked-out description of the psychopathology of a latency boy, according to Anna Freud's Diagnostic Profile. The amount of labor entailed gives one pause; but then comes a longer paper by Thomas and several associates of the Hampstead Clinic, who have used the Profile differently.

Thomas reports briefly upon the histories and treatment of four psychotic children. Dynamic and genetic formulations about the limitations of treatment are then presented in an adapted form of the Profile. This method of describing individuals with related symptomatology is extremely significant. It implies that the Profile at present may be most useful for nosological classification. As Miss Freud has said, the Profile is still a research tool. It is still a general outline; but for just this reason it may be particularly suitable for describing a general set of conditions residing in specific forms of illness. When normative data are at hand, and individual cases may be profiled more simply, we may be enabled to advance again, to describe specific pathologies — moving thus from the present general level of abstraction down to a lower level for individual cases, and later up again to the higher nosological level.

Other contributions to Volume XXI of **THE PSYCHOANALYTIC STUDY OF THE CHILD** are about recurring clinical issues: analytic case material about intellectuality and about pseudodebility; a simultaneous analysis of father and son by two analysts; problems of transference; and a survey of typical sleep problems from infancy through latency. Another paper takes up the relationship between the concepts of superego and moral judgment. And Katan offers the second part of his "causerie" on the origin of *The Turn of the Screw*. He finds, according to autobiographical data, that the story represents crucial aspects of James's oedipal conflict. He makes a compelling use of very small but specific details for this reconstruction.

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